




## MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

<b>SECTION:</b> Administrative	<b>NUMBER:</b> ADM.01.07 <b>PREVIOUS NUMBER:</b> 120(2)
<b>CHAPTER:</b> Mission Statements and Philosophies	<b>ORIGINATED:</b> 09/01 <b>LAST REVIEW DATE:</b> 04/05
<b>TITLE:</b> Addressing Health Disparities	
<b>APPROVED BY:</b> 	<b>CONTACT PERSON/S:</b> DLT
PAGE 1 OF 2	# Attachments: None
<b>Applies to:</b> All personnel	

#### Health Department Vision:

Healthy people in healthy communities

#### Health Department Mission:

In partnership with the communities we serve, the Health Department assures, promotes and protects the health of the people of Multnomah County.

#### Specific Policy Vision:

All of the many diverse communities and cultures of the county will enjoy the same high levels of health.

#### PURPOSE/IMPLEMENTATION:

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Department's focus in addressing disparities in health status, health outcomes and access to health services based on race, ethnicity or cultural affiliation.

#### Health Disparity - Working Definition:

Health disparities are disproportionate differences in the occurrence, prevalence, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist among culturally defined groups and communities of color in Multnomah County.

*We recognize that many determinants that contribute to a person's health. They include genetics, personal behaviors, oppression, the social and physical environment and health care access and availability.*

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

The Health Department will address health disparities that disproportionately impact culturally defined communities and communities of color to assure that all the residents of the County enjoy good health.

The Health Department's obligation to recognize and address the causes and conditions that contribute to health is rooted in the principles of social justice and in the Department's legal responsibility to protect the health of all of the people of Multnomah County.

**Strategic Directions:**

- Each Service Group will have at least one performance objective that focuses Department resources on a health disparity in the community.
- The Department will identify and evaluate differences in health, quality of life and life expectancy using culturally relevant research and epidemiological methods that represent best practices. The Department will provide communities with timely progress reports on their health status indicators.
- The Department will develop and nurture partnerships with culturally defined communities and communities of color to assure that public health work is carried out with meaningful community participation. Community values, involvement and preferences will be reflected in the planning, implementation and evaluation of initiatives that address health disparities.
- The Department will support culturally defined communities and communities of color in accessing capacity building resources to address disproportionate burden of disease and/or poor health outcomes.

---

Last review date: April 2005